



2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Park Plaza I Condos

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at CPCC Main Campus

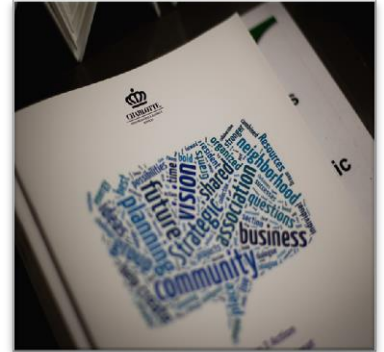
Park Plaza I Condos

2015 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 7th 2015, the members of the Park Plaza I Condos participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at CPCC's Main Campus. The following members participated in the retreat:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • David Jones | • Florence Smith | • Trudy Tennant |
| • Frankie Graves | • Doris Goodman | • Joann Williams |
| • Vivian James | • Olive Edmondson | • Jerline Short |



The City of Charlotte values citizen leadership and its ability to make an impact in the communities, in which we all live, work, play and shop. With this in mind, the board retreat process was initiated to help neighborhood based organizations develop strategic plans to improve quality of life in their communities.

Purpose

The purpose of the board retreat was to

- Generate meaningful conversations around improving quality of life in our community
- Set clear goals and priorities for the upcoming year(s)
- Develop a vision and strategic priorities for our community

By participating in the retreat, our board earned a \$1,500 Neighborhood Matching Grant credit to help execute one of the projects we identified.

Process

Our board retreat was conducted by trained facilitators tasked to keep our conversations on-task, productive, and focused on achievable objectives. The process was designed to help capture the best of the past, the best of the present, and how we can add to our strengths to build a better future. The focus was:

- Developing a vision to guide our decision making and activities
- Developing strategic priorities that aligned with our vision
- Developing project ideas

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- Introductions
- Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?: Arrow Activity
- Where We Want to Be: Vision Statement Exercise
- Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Developing Strategic Priorities
- Working Lunch – The Year Ahead
- Idea Development – Time for participants for develop an action plan for goal achievement.

Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?

We began our day with paired interviews, using the “Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?” activity. The activity was intended to help us reflect on:

- What we value
- What are the best things about our community and the people who live here
- What are our past successes
- Where are the potentials and possibilities

After interviewing our partners we shared our discussion with the group, finding commonalities in our conversations.

Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?	Where We Are: Why would or wouldn't a person/business want to move into our community?	Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?
<p>Best:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbors working together • Families meeting together • Good neighbors • Beautiful, appealing yards • Engaged ownership (65%) • Draw to businesses <p>Worst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yards became unkempt • More renters than owners • Good neighbor Info not passed to renters by absentee owners • HOA turnovers/ conflicts /bylaws in need of update • Crime up 	<p>Why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique, nice small, engaged community • Plenty of amenities nearby (park, shopping center, lake, schools, grocery stores) • Centralized to schools, highways, upcoming Blue Line <p>Why Not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOA fees high • Property values have dropped • Renter outnumber owners • Units are small & connected • Common area conflicts • Inhabitants responsible for yard work • Some kids out of control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better, more engaged community • More participation (HOA/owners/renters) • Better yard maintenance • HOA management repairs • Increase ownership in neighborhood • Move more to an adult/senior community • Beautification of area • Activities to bring community together • A unit converted to a meeting place/community center • Park build-out completed • More grocers/good restaurants • Aging trees replaced • Active neighborhood watch • One lawn service for all • Stricter guidelines for renters

Our Vision

Our vision is the unifying statement for our community that will guide our decision making and reminds us of what we are trying to reach. It is based on our shared values and preferences for our community's future. It combines the best of what was, what is, and what could be.

OUR VISION:

Park Plaza I Condos is a unique, diverse and historic community in a serene and natural setting where working together is paramount.

What other stakeholders can add value to our vision?

Community, HOA, City, CMPD, local Businesses, Homeowners

Strategic Priorities

After committing to a shared vision, the board began to brainstorm on strategic priorities. This is where we began to define what is most important to us in order to achieve our vision. Strategic priorities are initiatives that will help us move closer to our vision of our community. The idea is to focus on a few things and do them very well as opposed to many things and missing the mark.

We started out thinking big and then narrowed down our focus using the Affinity Mapping Process, detailed below:

- Grab some sticky notes from the table. Keeping the vision statement in mind, write down as many of the following as you can think of, one per sticky note:
 - Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
 - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky notes on the wall.
- Organize the ideas by natural categories, once everyone agrees on the groups, give each one a name.



This activity led us to the following categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

- Community Center
- Communication
- Crime Reduction
- Beautification

Each participant was provided three (3) stickers to be used for voting. Stickers could be placed all on one or two items or shared amongst all of the ideas identified. The three categories receiving the most votes are the strategic priorities that are most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision, these are:



All Potential Projects

The board then began to brainstorm on possible projects or activities that aligned with their strategic priorities: *(based on our tree activity)*

Strategic Priority	Potential Projects	Sources that could give life to success
<i>"The Trunk"</i>	<i>"The Fruit"</i>	<i>"The Roots"</i>
1. Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a Community Center in the community • Clubhouse • Have PPI HOA consider purchasing a unit for a community center • Community center for meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$\$ Fundraisers • Grants • Local Businesses • Churches • Owners • HOA
2. Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Better HOA & Community Communications • Contact Homeowners for new vision for PPI • Contact local businesses for input/ideas for our needs • Create projects organizing everyone to do their part • Pass new bylaws, asap to get more people on Board of Directors (currently 3) – change to 5-7 people • Inspire more Owners participation in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Businesses • Queen's College – Communication workshop • UNCC CHARP – Charlotte Action Research Project • Community Engagement Resource specialist • HOA

	community affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Newsletter • Ensure everyone gets via hand delivery • Jane's Walk • Neighborhood cleanups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create clear goals for HOA/ Attend and hold meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeowners
3. Crime Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a solid and active Neighborhood /Crime Watch program • Good neighbor program – encouraging neighbors to look after each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMPD • CPTED report • Police presence • Officer Doan • Street lighting grants
4. Beautification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification of the neighborhood • Yard work • Get one lawn service to keep up lawns – consistency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOA • Homeowners • Possible Grants \$\$\$

Action Items for 2014-2015

The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2014-2015 are:

Purchase a Unit to serve as Community Center/ Meeting place

Enhance Communication via:

- Newsletter content & delivery
- Participation in Jane's Walk
- Hold neighborhood cleanup

Develop an active Neighborhood Watch program & participate in National Night Out 2015



2015 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Park Plaza I Condos

OUR VISION:

Park Plaza I Condos is a unique, diverse and historic community in a serene and natural setting where working together is paramount.

TO HELP US REACH OUR VISION; WE WILL FOCUS ON THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1

Community Center

2

Communication

3

Crime Reduction

IN 2015-2016, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Purchase a Unit to
serve as Community
Center/ Meeting
place

Enhance

Communication via:

- Newsletter content & delivery
- Participation in Jane's Walk
- Hold neighborhood cleanup

Develop an active
Neighborhood Watch
program & participate in
National Night Out 2015

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Purchase a unit to serve as a community center/meeting place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider partnering with your neighborhood school, neighboring community or a church to host events or meetings 	<p>A guide to building effective neighborhood partnerships: http://www.neighborpower.org/papers/building-genuine-partnerships.pdf</p> <p>Ways to partner with your neighborhood school http://www.educationworld.com/admin/archives/partners.shtml</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a fundraiser 	<p>Neighborhood fundraiser ideas: http://www.useful-community-development.org/how-to-fundraise.html</p> <p>More fundraising ideas: http://www.ehow.com/way_5208916_fundraising-ideas-neighborhood-association.html</p>
Project # 2 Enhance communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an e-newsletter to reduce printing costs 	<p>Mail Chimp: Free online newsletter creator: www.mailchimp.com Newsletter Tips: http://archive.ci.falconheights.mn.us/nlhandbook/com_tips.html More newsletter tips http://www.icgov.org/site/CMSv2/file/planning/neighbor/creatingnewsletter.pdf</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional information on Jane's Walks 	<p>UNCC Urban Institute: Search for Jane's Walk www.ui.uncc.edu Jane's Walk www.janeswalk.org Tips for hosting a Jane's Walk http://janeswalk.org/information/resources/walk-guide-tips/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tips for hosting a clean-up in your neighborhood 	<p>Tips for Organizing a Community Cleanup http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/organized_cleanup.shtml</p> <p>Keep Charlotte Beautiful has clean up supplies, grants and volunteers for cleanups www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org</p>
Project #3 Develop an active Neighborhood Watch & participate in National Night Out 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request a CPTED report from CMPD to identify areas of concern in your community Organize a neighborhood watch committee in your 	<p>Request a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Study by CMPD crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org</p> <p>CMPD: Neighborhood Watch Program http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cmpd/safety/neighborhoodwatch/Pages/default.aspx</p>

	<p>neighborhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about National Night Out • Partner with CMPD to host a National Night Out event • Invite your City Council representative to attend 	<p>Tips from the National Crime Prevention Council http://www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety/neighborhood-watch</p> <p>More information on National Night Out https://natw.org/</p> <p>Find your community police officer: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/response-areas</p> <p>Contact your City Council representative http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CityCouncil/MeettheCouncil/Pages/home.aspx /Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p> <p>Charlotte Department of Transportation for information on street closure procedures and approval http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for sound permits http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/Pages/default.aspx</p>
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<p>Parking Lot</p> <p>CDOT Contact for speed humps: Chip Gallup 704-336-3922 rgallup@chalottenc.gov</p> <p>Resources for trees: City of Charlotte tree banding grants: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/pages/treebanding.aspx</p> <p>Tool Bank supplies for neighborhoods: http://charlotte.toolbank.org/</p> <p>Information on TreesCharlotte: http://treescharlotte.org/</p> <p>Park and Rec presentation: Contact: Andrew Bowen, abowen@chalottenc.gov Website: http://charmeck.org/speakersbureau/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Upcoming Queens communication workshops: http://www.queens.edu/Academics-and-Schools/Schools-and-Colleges/Knight-School-of-Communication/Digital-and-Media-Literacy/Digital-Media-Events.html</p>

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